

ANNUAL REPORT of the COMMISSIONERS of EDUCATION in *Ireland*,
for the Year 1877-78.

TO HIS GRACE JOHN, DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH, K.G.,
LORD LIEUTENANT GENERAL AND GENERAL GOVERNOR
OF IRELAND, &c. &c. &c.

WE, "the Commissioners of Education in Ireland," constituted by Acts of Parliament passed in the reigns of their late Majesties King George the Third and King George the Fourth, respectfully submit to your Grace a General Report of our Proceedings during the year 1877-78.

Before entering into the details of our Report, we think it not improper to request your Grace's special attention to an extract from our Annual Report for 1869-70.

"We now take the liberty most respectfully to submit to your Excellency's consideration certain suggestions, which, if carried into effect by the Legislature, would, we are convinced, be of considerable advantage.

"The necessity for the attendance at our meetings of one of the Commissioners who are, *virtute officii*, Members of the Board, should no longer be required to give legality to our acts, or to the affixing the corporate seal to any document.

"Any three of the Commissioners assembled in pursuance of a general notice for a meeting should form a quorum for the transaction of business as fully and effectually as if all the Members of the Board were personally present.

"Except in the cases of private patronage, this Commission should have the power to appoint, to promote, to remove, and to superannuate the various Masters and Teachers of the respective Schools.

"This Commission should be distinctly empowered to appoint Inspectors of Schools, and to pay them such sums as may be fixed by resolution of the Board.

"The necessity which at present exists for confining University Exhibitions to certain Schools, whose funds are ample for that purpose, should cease.

"The Commissioners should have the power to apply the funds of largely Endowed Schools to the assistance and aid of the funds of those Schools which are not so largely endowed, generally, and in any manner that may seem to be expedient; and should have complete power to remove Schools of Public Endowment to whatever localities may seem to be most advantageous to the public.

"The Commissioners should have the power to select, determine, and alter the course of instruction, and the hours at which it shall be given, in the various Schools; the times and durations of the School Vacations; the amount of School Fees to be paid by daily Pupils; and also should have power to appoint a certain number of daily Pupils, who shall receive gratuitous instruction at each School."

Recommendations to a similar effect were urged in our Report for 1870-71, and referred to in all our subsequent Annual Reports, without, however, any result. The operation of the Irish Church Act gives, we most respectfully state to your Grace, additional force to our suggestions for certain changes in the constitution of this Board.

The consideration of questions which constantly arise in connection with the several Estates vested in us, and which are managed by Land Agents generally resident within short distances of the respective properties, and the keeping in good repair the School Buildings of such Endowed Schools as possess funds under our control, necessarily engage much time and attention on our part.

We beg to report to your Grace that the Royal Scholarships founded by us, in connection with certain Royal Schools, in Trinity College, are not confined to any religious denomination; they can be obtained solely as rewards of successful Competition at a severe Examination, held by a Board of Examiners in Trinity College, and they become forfeited unless the holder obtains in each year of his Collegiate Course a certain number of honours prescribed by us; and we beg to refer to a Copy of the Programme specifying the Course of the Examinations for these Scholarships, and of our Regulations in connection with them, which is attached to this Report.

We submit a list of those at present holding Royal Scholarships:

On the Armagh Royal School Foundation.

£.		£.	
P. G. Sandford	- 50 per annum.	T. M. Orr	- 35 per annum.
H. King	- 50 "	M. Kennedy	- 40 "
W. Kilpatrick	- 50 "	A. Rambant	- 30 "
F. J. Anderson	- 35 "		

On the Cavan Royal School Foundation.

C. Mense	- - - - -	£. 25 per annum.
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On the Dungannon Royal School Foundation.

£.		£.	
R. Manders	- 50 per annum.	A. D. O'Sullivan	- 50 per annum.
J. Ringwood	- 50 "	C. Porter	- 40 "
A. A. Hamilton	- 30 "	H. Morrell	- 30 "
A. Bell	- 40 "		

On the Enniskillen Royal School Foundation.

£.		£.	
H. Beatty	- 50 per annum.	H. Hanghton	- 40 per annum.
L. W. Batledge	- 30 "	K. Verschoyle	- 15 "
G. Garrett	- 50 "	B. Magroarty	- 30 "
C. Murphy	- 50 "	J. F. Wray	- 20 "
D. Robertson	- 40 "		

The

The system of School Exhibitions recently established by us at certain Royal Schools, and of Prizes for the encouragement of a Mercantile Education, is now in full and satisfactory operation.

The periodical Returns made to us by the respective Schoolmasters show that in most of the Endowed Schools a high standard of instruction in Classics, in Science, and Modern Languages is afforded.

ARMAGH ROYAL SCHOOL.—We beg to report that the new School and Class-rooms, stated in a former Report to be in course of erection, have, during the last year, been completed, and have been handed over to the use of the School. And we, acting on the advice and under the supervision of our Architect, have caused the School premises to be insured against fire for a much larger sum than heretofore. The half-yearly Returns made to us by the Master show that this School is in a very satisfactory condition.

DUNGANNON ROYAL SCHOOL.—The School buildings at Dungannon are reported to be in thorough repair, and are capable of accommodating a much larger number of pupils than at present avail themselves of this Endowment.

As regards the Dungannon Royal School Estate, we beg to report that the negotiation between this Board and the Dungannon and Cookstown Railway Company has been fully carried out, that we have been paid the amount of the purchase money, and have invested it in Government Funds to the credit of the Dungannon Endowment.

The Commissary General's Department being desirous to make arrangements for an Artillery Shooting Range on the shores of Lough Neagh, have applied to us for a tenure of a small plot of ground, portion of this Estate, on the shore of the lake; and we are now taking such measures as we expect will enable us to comply with this application.

ENNISKILLEN ROYAL SCHOOL.—The latest half-yearly Return made to us by the Master of this School shows that a considerable increase in the number of the Pupils has taken place during the past year. The School premises, which are very extensive, are in excellent repair, and are available for a larger number of Pupils than are in attendance there.

CAVAN ROYAL SCHOOL.—The Returns from this School do not present during the past year any such variation from its usual condition as calls for any special notice to your Grace. The School premises are reported to be in a very satisfactory state.

RAPHON ROYAL SCHOOL.—This School continues to be as numerously attended as could be expected, when its very unfavourable situation is taken into consideration. The Report of the Examiner who presided at the recent Examination for School Prizes granted by us, expresses a very favourable opinion of the method of teaching at this School, and of the answering of the Pupils.

BANAGHER ROYAL SCHOOL.—Possesses only a very small Endowment, but exhibits during the last year a considerable increase in the number of its pupils. And we beg to report that we are in treaty with the Landlord of the School premises for a renewal of the lease which is about to expire.

It may be right here to state to your Grace, that at all these Royal Schools, the payments yearly made by us for the salaries of the Assistant Masters, are supplemented (and in some instances very largely) by the Head Masters themselves.

CARYSFORT ROYAL SCHOOL.—Is very poorly endowed, and is, virtually, a Primary School, situated in a mountainous district of the County Wicklow. As regards this School, there is nothing calling for special notice, beyond the fact that the Master has reported that he has recently opened his School at night for such pupils as are unable to attend it during the day-time.

SCHOOLS OF PRIVATE ENDOWMENT.—The Clonmel School at one time was a very successful establishment; but during the incumbency of the late Master became, at last, a sinecure in his hands. It is now, however, reported to be gaining public confidence, and is well attended under the superintendence of a gentleman recently appointed to the Head Mastership by the Patrons. The School-house has been by us put into a good state of repair.

The School at Middleton, in the County Cork, continues, under the management of its present able Head Master, to be very largely attended, and the local Governors report to us that at a recent visit they were fully satisfied with the Establishment, and found every department in a most creditable condition. And we have to report to your Grace that the additional School Buildings which, as stated in our last Report, we had commenced at the strong recommendation of the Governors, have since been completed, and handed over to the Master.

The Schools of Navan and Ballyroan, endowed by the Preston family with the Cappaghlonghlin Estate in the Queen's County, never have been successful, the Teachers appointed to them from time to time having, for the most part, been inefficient for the discharge of their duties as Schoolmasters. This remark, however, does not apply to the present Head Master of Navan School, who is young and energetic, and who passed his university course with great distinction. The Ballyroan branch of this Endowment is situated in a most unfavourable locality. And we beg to report that in conformity with the directions of the founder, and of the provisions of 53 Geo. 3, c. 107, s. 14, we every year pay over to the Governors of the Hospital of King Charles II. at Oxmantown, Dublin, four-sixteenths of the net rents and profits of the Cappaghlonghlin Estate.

The Primary School established by us for the tenantry of this Estate is largely attended, and is reported to be very successful.

EYRESCOURT (County Galway).—The Endowment is so small in amount that the Patrons report to us that they found great difficulty in inducing any competent person to accept the Mastership, which is at present vacant.

The Tullyvin Endowment, in the county of Cavan, which is for Primary Education, has been by us, at the urgent request of the Local Managers, greatly extended, and is by them reported to be a very great advantage to the humbler classes resident in that district.

ATHLONE.

ATHLONE.—The small sum annually paid by us to the Master of this School represents only the interest on a sum of money paid over to us by a former Lady Castlemaine, as arrears of this Endowment, and placed by us in the Government Funds; the interest on which is regularly paid by us to the nominee of the Patrons, from whom he directly receives the rest of the Endowment.

The above-mentioned Schools of Private Foundation comprise all those whose Funds are under our control, and are administered by us.

The private endowments of other Schools are generally of very small amounts, and the payments pass directly from the Patrons to the parties entitled to them.

The provisions of the Irish Church Act have, virtually, abolished the Diocesan School system, and most of the Schools have now no existence, and we beg to report to your Grace, that in all cases where old dilapidated Diocesan School-houses had been sold by us, the monies produced by the different sales were invested by us in the Government Funds to the credit of the respective Diocesan School Accounts; and the dividends are paid to such Diocesan Schoolmasters as continue to discharge their functions as such. But in the cases where such Diocesan Schools have lapsed, the dividends on the monies funded and accumulated are by us invested to the credit of each respective School, awaiting instruction to us as to what course should ultimately be adopted in reference thereto.

As regards the School houses still in existence "for Diocesan Schools only," and where Schools have either already wholly ceased to be carried on, or are about to cease, we have to report that we have experienced considerable difficulty as to the proper course to be adopted by us with regard to them.

They are as follows:—That for Armagh and Connor, at Ballymena; for Down and Downmore, at Downpatrick; for Kilmore, Raphoe, and Clogher, at Monaghan; for Kildare, at Naas; and for Limerick, Killaloe, and Kilfenora, at Limerick.

And we most respectfully state to your Grace that we are strongly of opinion that some legislation is absolutely necessary both with regard to the funds arising from the sale of old Diocesan School-houses, and the houses themselves, in cases where the nature of the trusts under which they are held render the sale of them impossible to us. Legislation is also required with regard to the other suggestions set forth at the head of this Report.

All which we beg respectfully to submit to your Grace as our Report.

(signed)	J. T. BALL, C.	(L. S.)
	H. LLOYD, D.D., Provost of Trinity College.	(L. S.)
	WILLIAM B. KIRKPATRICK, D.D.	(L. S.)
	JOHN H. JELLETT.	(L. S.)
	CHARLES LIMERICK.	(L. S.)
	LOWRY E. BERKELEY.	(L. S.)

8, Clare-street, 4 April 1878.

Wm. Cotter Kylls, LL.D.,
Secretary.

ROYAL SCHOLARSHIPS IN T.C.D., AND SCHOOL EXHIBITIONS AND PRIZES.

REGULATIONS of "The Commissioners of Education in Ireland," for 1878.

"The Commissioners of Education in Ireland" have founded 35 Exhibitions, called "Royal Scholarships," for students who shall enter Trinity College from the Royal Schools of Armagh, Dungannon, Enniskillen, or Cavan—viz., five of 40*l.* per annum, and five of 30*l.* per annum, for each of the Schools of Armagh, Dungannon, and Enniskillen; and five of 25*l.* per annum, for Cavan School.

These Scholarships can be obtained by such students only as have been *three years in all*, previously to their entrance into Trinity College, pupils in some one or other of the Royal Schools. It is not, however, hereby intended to prevent pupils from moving from one of these schools to another; but the Scholarships founded for the respective Schools of Armagh, Dungannon, Enniskillen, and Cavan can be obtained only by students who have entered the University from the schools for which such Scholarships have been founded.

The Scholarships are tenable for *five years*, subject to certain conditions hereafter mentioned.

The Provost and Senior Fellows appoint Examiners in each year, to examine, on the first convenient day *after the second entrance, in the month of October*, such students as have entered from the said four Royal Schools, and shall offer themselves as candidates for these Scholarships.

In 1878 the examinations will be in the following subjects:—

I.—Greek and Latin Classics (200 marks).

Three Greek Authors to be examined *word voc.*

Three Latin Authors to be examined *word voc.*

Unseen Greek and Latin passages, for translation in writing.

Greek and Latin Prose Composition.

Ancient History and Geography.

The Greek and Latin books selected for *word voc.* are as follows:—

Homer, Books I., II., III., VI.

Euripides, *Heracles*.

Xenophon, *Anabasis*, Books I., II., III., IV.

Virgil, *Æneid*, Books I., II., VI., VII.

Horace, *Satires and Epistles*, Book I.

Livy, Books III., IV.

II.—The English Course (100 marks), will consist of:—

Trench, English, Past and Present. Student's Manual of English Literature, Chaps. VI., VII., VIII., XI., XII., XV., XVII., XIX., with corresponding portions of Smith's Specimens of English Literature.

Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book I.; and Shakespeare, *Merchant of Venice*.

English Composition.

History of England (Student's Hume).

Modern Geography (Clyde).

III.—Modern Languages (50 marks).

French or German.

IV.—Science (100 marks).

Arithmetic.

Algebra, to the end of Quadratic Equations.

Euclid, with easy Deductions.

Plane Trigonometry.

Note.—The course of examination for Royal Scholarships will be varied, from time to time, by the Commissioners.

Candidates

Candidates may present themselves for examination in any of the four preceding courses, or in all of them. The result of the examination will be determined by the aggregate number of marks obtained by the several candidates; the number affixed to each course denoting the greatest number of marks obtainable in that course.

No fellow-commoner can be admitted as a candidate for a Royal Scholarship.

No pensioner shall be admitted as a candidate for a Royal Scholarship who shall not have remained at one of the Royal Schools to which the Scholarships are attached till an entrance examination in Trinity College, in the month of October next preceding the examination for Royal Scholarships.

No sizar shall be admitted as a candidate who shall not have remained at such Royal School till the sizarship entrance examination immediately preceding the examination for Royal Scholarships at which he may be a candidate.

No student who shall have attained 20 years of age shall be permitted to become a candidate for a Royal Scholarship.

No student shall be elected a Royal Scholar unless he shall have, previously to the examination, produced to the Secretary of the Commissioners a certificate, signed by the Master of the Royal School from which he shall have entered Trinity College, certifying that such candidate is duly qualified according to the above-stated rules, such certificate to be subsequently handed by the candidate to the Examiners.

The candidates from all the schools shall be examined together, and a return made to the Commissioners of their positive merit; and also an arrangement of the candidates according to their answering, without distinction of schools; the Commissioners reserving to themselves the power of suspending or diminishing one or more Scholarships, if sufficient merit has not been shown.

In cases of equality of merit in all other respects, the poverty of a candidate will be taken into consideration. A student who has once been a candidate shall not be eligible on a subsequent occasion.

A Royal Scholarship becomes forfeited by the holder of it incurring any heavy collegiate censure, such as public admonition, or rustication; failing to proceed regularly with his class; or failing to obtain in any year either one honour of the first rank, or two honours of the second rank.

The election itself to one of these Scholarships is reckoned as equivalent to one honour of the second rank; a University Moderators'hip, a University Scholarship, the Berkeley Gold Medal, the Vice-Chancellor's (Latin) Gold Medal, the Lloyd Exhibition, the Wray Prize, success in the first Indian Civil Service (competitive) examination, or at the Woolwich entrance examination, as equivalent to a University honour of the first rank; and obtaining a respondentship, or success at any of the subsequent Indian Civil Service examinations, as equivalent to a University honour of the second rank.

The Exhibitions become due half-yearly, viz., on the 1st of May and on the 1st of November. Payments will be made in May to such students only as have obtained in the preceding part of that year at least one honour of the second rank. A half-yearly payment, held over in May, will be made in November, provided an honour has been obtained in the meantime; and payment for the entire year will be made in November to such students as had not qualified for the May half-year's payment, and shall have then fulfilled all the requisites for the entire year.

In cases where very distinguished merit has been shown during their undergraduate course by students holding minor Scholarships, and where Scholarships for the same school remain suspended, or have been forfeited, the Commissioners will, at the close of each year, receive memorials from such students for an increase of their stipend.

The names of Royal Scholars are placed on the College books immediately after the names of the University Scholars, without, however, altering their degree of seniority amongst their class-fellows.

MIDLETON SCHOOL.

"The Commissioners of Education in Ireland" will grant annually two prizes, one of £. 30 and one of £. 20, to such junior freshmen as shall, subject to the rules prescribed for the Royal Schools, have entered Trinity College, Dublin, from Middleton School, and, having been examined along with and in the same course as the candidates for the Royal Scholarships, shall be recommended by the Examiners as deserving candidates.

SCHOOL EXHIBITIONS AND PRIZES.

The Commissioners have founded 10 Exhibitions, viz., five of £. 25 and five of £. 15, in each of the Schools of Armagh, Dungannon, and Enniskillen, tenable by boys at school.

One Exhibition of £. 25 and one of £. 15 shall be awarded in each year, to be com-

peted for by boys under the age of 14 years, whether they have been previously pupils of the school or not. These Exhibitions to be *tenable for two years*.

One Exhibition of £.25 and one of £.15 shall be awarded each year, to be competed for by boys between the ages of 14 and 16 years, who have been at least one year in the school. These Exhibitions to be *tenable for three years*.

No boy can hold two Exhibitions at the same time.

The examination for these Exhibitions shall be held in the month of September in each year, the subjects of examination being the regular school-work of the first five classes. *No Exhibition shall be awarded where there is not absolute merit*; and in such cases, the amount of the Exhibition forfeited shall revert to the estate of the school.

Four Prizes of £.10 each and four of £.5 each will (*if there be sufficient merit*) be given annually in each school for proficiency in English and other subjects a knowledge of which is required in commercial life.

William Cotter Kyle, LL.D.,
Secretary to "The Commissioners of Education in Ireland."

8, Clare-street, December 1877.

EDUCATION (IRELAND).

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